



**Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey  
And Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued By Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ  
8 am EDT Monday September 19, 2011**

Rainfall amounts none through tonight, one to two tenths of an inch Tuesday.

Winds for spraying northeast then southeast 5 to 10 mph today, south 5 to 10 mph tonight, southwest 5 to 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent 40 to 50 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 55 to 65 Tuesday.

Dew points are mid 40s today, low 50s tonight, low 60s Tuesday. Drying conditions good today, fair at best Tuesday. Heavy dew tonight, some dew as well as possible wetting in showers Tuesday night. Percent of possible sunshine 80 today, 10 Tuesday.

There is a near zero percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm. Rainfall could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain-free period after application.

Hay cutting will see good drying for this point in the season today but then with a moderate risk of wetting in showers on Tuesday.

Conditions will be unfavorable for cranberry scald today and Tuesday. Temperatures in the representative cranberry bogs could drop to 30 to 34 tonight if skies remain clear but should remain above freezing Tuesday night.

Soil moisture levels will continue to drop over the next several days. Only light amounts of precipitation are expected Tuesday.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 26, 2011 to October 2, 2011 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to average above normal.

**Climate summary for the week ending 8am September 19, 2011**

Temperatures averaged near normal, averaging 62 degrees north, 66 degrees central, and 67 degrees south. Extremes were 88 degrees at several locations on September 15, 2011 and 38 degrees at Belvidere on September 19, 2011.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.45 inches north, 0.09 inches central, and 0.23 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.70 inches at Newton on September 12, 2011 to September 13, 2011.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 89 percent north, 73 percent central, and 69 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 65 degrees north, 68 degrees central, and 70 degrees south.

**Farmers Resume Field Activities**

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, September 18, 2011 were 6.0. Topsoil moisture was rated as 45% adequate and 55% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated as 40% adequate and 60% surplus. Pasture and Range condition was rated at 10% poor, 30% fair, 40% good, and 20% excellent. There were minimal amounts of rainfall during the week in most localities. Temperatures were variable across the Garden State.

Farmers continued fieldwork where grounds permitted. Activities throughout the week included planting cover-crops, cutting hay, harvesting vegetables, spraying fungicides, and livestock care. Disease pressure remained high for various fruit and vegetable crops due to excess moisture. Producers started to harvest corn for grain in the northern and central districts. Crop conditions rated mostly good for soybeans as plants continued dropping leaves. Growers continued harvesting grapes and apples with quality rating fair to good. The peach harvest was virtually complete.

**Weather Summary for the Week Ending Monday, September 19, 2011**

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures Last Week				Growing Degree Days <sup>1</sup>		Soil Moisture <sup>2</sup>
	Last Week	Since March 1		Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*							
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Degrees</i>			<i>Percent</i>
<b>North</b>										
Belvidere Bridge <sup>3</sup>	0.28	45.14	18.17	81	38	60	-2	2,483	-10	80
Canoe Brook <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Charlotteburg <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flemington <sup>3</sup>	0.09	41.91	14.81	85	44	62	-1	2,958	392	83
Newton	0.97	51.84	25.49	81	45	62	2	2,836	594	94
<b>Central</b>										
Freehold	0.05	43.65	17.31	88	43	65	0	3,281	560	72
Long Branch	0.00	45.96	19.28	84	44	66	1	3,059	394	57
New Brunswick	0.08	43.66	16.91	88	42	65	1	3,292	435	82
Toms River <sup>3</sup>	0.18	28.23	0.96	87	45	67	2	3,134	464	60
Trenton	0.14	40.14	14.82	86	45	65	-1	3,578	612	62
<b>South</b>										
Cape May C.H. <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Downstown <sup>3</sup>	0.40	28.94	4.10	88	44	66	0	2,983	5	71
Hammonton <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pomona	0.23	29.58	5.86	88	46	67	2	3,614	857	59
Seabrook <sup>3</sup>	0.06	47.32	23.43	88	47	68	1	3,691	694	62

\*Departure from normal.

<sup>1</sup>Growing degree days since March 1, 2011, total and departure from normal or long term average.

<sup>2</sup>Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

<sup>3</sup>Data not available for historic comparisons.

## Jersey Fresh Availability & Forecast Report

Excessive rain in August, and rains since Hurricane Irene, seemed to have had more of a cumulative effect on our crops than the hurricane itself. Some crops that had well survived July's record hot growing conditions and August's record rains have found that rains over the last two weeks have pushed them beyond their limits. The fact that farmers were not able to maintain regular cultural practices during the previous 6 weeks due to excessive wetness was the biggest problem for many crops. Farmers could not get heavy machinery into wet fields, or maintain other proper cultural practices, to work during this time. It seems that some plantings of lettuces, and some greens, were also washed out after already enduring stressful growing conditions over the previous two months. Ground crops incurred some excessive water damage and wet field disease conditions that have caused growth and quality problems for tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, eggplants, and especially pumpkins effectively curtailing the seasons for all of these items.

We need some dry weather and seasonal temperatures so that fields continue to dry out. This would allow our farmers to get back out into their fields with their machinery while also discouraging field disease problems that can occur with excessive wetness. Unfortunately, there's an even chance of rain occurring over the next four days. This week's temperatures are seasonal, with Wednesday's high-70's the only day expected to be warmer than the low 70's forecast all week.

Please let me know how I can make this report of more use to you. Feel free to respond to [William.walker@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:William.walker@ag.state.nj.us) at any time if you have questions or need more information about Jersey Fresh availability.

*BILL WALKER – NJ DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE*

### AVAILABILITY FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

<b>APPLES</b>	Harvesting Gala, McIntosh, Courtland, Honeycrisp, Early Fuji, Ginger Gold. Red & Golden Delicious, Empire, Jonagold, Rome, and MacCoun starting. Stayman/Winesap by the end of the week. Braeburn, Fuji, & Granny Smith will start in a week or two. Fresh apples available thru Dec. It's been hard to follow proper cultural practices during the last six weeks due to excessively wet weather so expect some less than perfect apples this season. More cool nights would help in the development of color in many varieties.
<b>ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting a light quantity of good quality product. Volume starting to return w/ the cooler weather.
<b>BABY SPINACH &amp; ARUGULA</b>	Harvesting good quality product in light to fair quantity as growers can finally get their harvesters back out into drying fields.
<b>BASIL</b>	Likes warmer weather. Harvesting a very light volume of variable quality product as wet field conditions have caused some quality problems.
<b>BEEETS</b>	Harvesting fair to good quality product in fair quantity.
<b>CABBAGE</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
<b>CILANTRO</b>	A fair volume of good quality product is harvesting. Volume returning w/ the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
<b>COLLARDS</b>	Harvesting good quality product in fair to good volume.
<b>CUCUMBERS</b>	Harvesting light quantities of variable quality product. There will be supply shortages as field disease conditions have resulted in some locations which are negatively affecting the rest of our Fall cucurbit season.
<b>DANDELIONS</b>	Good quality Italian & San Pasquale varieties harvesting in fair volume.
<b>DILL</b>	Harvesting good quality in light quantity.
<b>EGGPLANT</b>	Harvesting variable quality in light supplies. Hot and stressful July growing conditions, coupled with the wettest August ever and recent rains, resulted in some growth and quality issues. More late season supply would normally be expected, but wet field disease conditions have resulted in some locations which has negatively affected the rest of the season.
<b>ESCAROLE &amp; ENDIVE</b>	Harvesting good quality products in light to fair volume w/ the return of cooler weather.
<b>KALE</b>	Good quality product harvesting in fair volume.
<b>LEEKS</b>	A fair volume of good quality harvesting.
<b>LETTUCES</b>	August's record rainfall, followed by a hurricane and excessive rains, caused some plantings to be washed out or delayed. Late transplants will be ready in two weeks though there's going to be a shortage of normally available product when growers start harvesting these late crops.
<b>MINT</b>	Likes warmer weather. Good quality harvesting in fair to declining volume.
<b>PARSLEY</b>	Harvesting a light to fair volume of good quality product.
<b>PEACHES</b>	Finishing up.
<b>PEPPERS</b>	Harvesting variable quality in light supply. Supply shortages have resulted due to wet field disease conditions that have negatively affected the rest of the season.
<b>RADISHES</b>	Starting to return with the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
<b>SPINACH</b>	A light volume of fair quality product. Much more supply would normally be expected with the cooler Fall harvest season arriving but adverse growing conditions these last two months have resulted in less quantity than usual and later harvesting. There should be a small flush of late supply in two weeks.
<b>SQUASH</b>	Harvesting a light quantity of variable quality yellow/zucchini. Excessive July heat, coupled with the wettest August ever and recent rains, means that there will be less supply of squash than normal. Most farmers with Butternut & Acorn harvested them before the hurricane for storage, curing, and later sale.
<b>SWEET CORN</b>	Harvesting fair to good quality in light supply as much corn was knocked down by the hurricane and/or during follow-up rains the next week and some of it did not get up again. Supply shortage for the remainder of the season. Also expect increased quality variations in the marketplace due to the annual cycle of insect pressures.
<b>SWEET POTATOES</b>	Harvesting good quality in fair to increasing supply. They seem fine from the wet growing weather though a bit delicate upon being first dug. With curing, volume is now starting to become available.
<b>SWISS CHARD</b>	Harvesting good quality product in light to fair volume.
<b>TOMATOES</b>	Harvesting variable quality product in very light volume. Hot and stressful July growing conditions, coupled with the wettest August ever and recent rains, caused ripening fruit to take up too much water & resulted in some quality issues. There are supply shortages as wet field disease conditions in some locations have resulted which are negatively affecting the rest of the season.
<b>TURNIPS</b>	Starting to return with the cooler weather over the next several weeks.
<b>WHITE POTATOES</b>	We've harvested mainly round white varieties, with some Yukon Gold, Redskin varieties, and a bit of Russets as well.

### FORECAST

<b>CRANBERRIES</b>	White berries are available. Red harvest to begin soon and may be off very slightly due to extreme weather growing conditions. We need some cool overnight temperatures to help with color.
<b>PUMPKINS</b>	Expect little local product due to wet growing conditions and field disease conditions which have resulted in many areas.